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cherelle, Brotherus, Cardot, Dixon, Kindberg, Mitten, Pearson, Röll, Stephani, and Warnstorf.

An effort will be made to secure the loan of type specimens and illustrations from the following sources: Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Academy of Sciences of New York, Columbia University, Harvard University, The National Museum, Ohio State University, The University of Wisconsin, and Yale University, as well as from private collections. It is also intended to exhibit any portraits, autograph letters and type specimens and drawings of special interest which may be loaned for the occasion, as well as presentation copies of books and pamphlets.

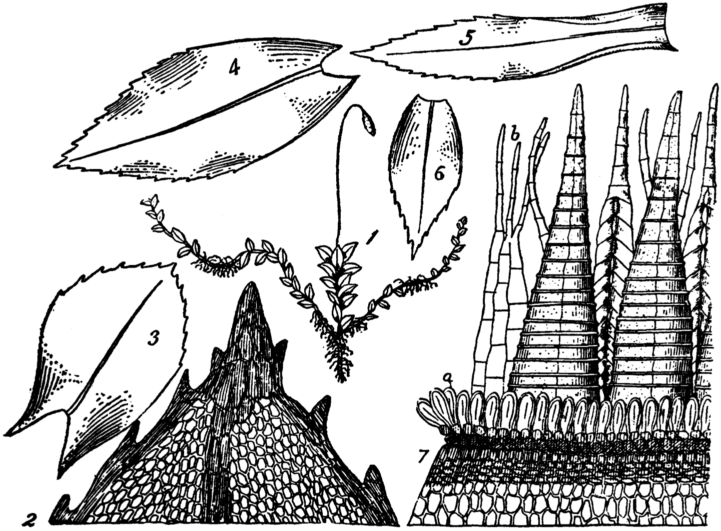
The following committee of organization will gladly answer any questions and give assistance to those wishing to contribute: Mrs. N. L. Britton, New York Botanical Gardens; Prof. W. A. Kellerman, Ohio State University; Prof. L. M. Underwood, Columbia University; Prof. Charles R. Barnes, University of Chicago; Dr. George G. Kennedy, Readville, Mass.—*E. G. B.*

THE MNIUMS.

THE Mniums are present everywhere in moist, shady places, and their large size, broad leaves and conspicuous capsules render them objects of interest to every one who is at all observant of nature.

One of the first signs of vegetable life that appears after the snow is gone is the array of upright green "lances" of the "Woodsy" Mnium (*M. sylvaticum* Lindb.), generally known as *M. cuspidatum* Hedw. These green lances are young sporophytes or "fruits," and rapidly develop the mature pendent capsules shown in the figure, which will help our readers to identify it without very much description. The Woodsy Mnium is common in all the Eastern States in lawns, at base of trees, and on decaying logs. It is very abundant in shady, moist soil in the lawns of the parks of Greater New York.

Its capsules mature in May, but our readers will find them in good shape for study at the time this issue of the BRYOLOGIST is received. Some members of the Sullivant Chapter have already sent us specimens of this moss, with its "lances turned at the point," for identification, and there is not a single member but can readily collect and determine this common but interesting species.



Mnium sylvaticum Lindb.

1, Plant natural size showing stolons; 2, apex of leaf enlarged to show the serrate margin and cuspidate apex; 3, 4, 5 and 6, various shapes of leaves; 7, mouth of capsule enlarged, showing annulus (*a*) and peristome, including cilia of internal peristome (*b*). (From Mrs. Britton's *Observer* articles, by permission.)

There are as many species of Mnium in our range as of Dicranum, but the leaves are so large and usually so well characterized by border or teeth that they can readily be determined without the capsules.

In determining Mniums the leaves should be first examined under the compound microscope to determine whether or not they have the borders of long narrow cells, illustrated in figure 2 and in the glossary which appears in this issue. If the border be present, is it entire, serrate with a single row of teeth, or with a double row of teeth, *i. e.*, with the teeth in pairs? If the margin be present and the teeth be single and single-celled, and not present much below the middle of the leaf, and also if the capsules be single and the stolons present, you have the Woodsy Mnium.

If the plant was gathered on rocks or stones by the bed of a brook and has very large stolons with large leaves, it may very likely be the "toothed Mnium" (*M. cuspidatum* (L.) Neck.), usually known as *M. affilne* Bland. This species is distinguished from the Woodsy Mnium by the very long slendér teeth on the margins of the leaf. These teeth are two or three cells in length and extend to the *base* of the leaf. So marked is the length and distribution of these teeth that a hand lens alone suffices to distinguish the species when once one knows them. The cells of the leaves are also much larger than in the Woodsy Mnium.

The "beaked Mnium" (*M. rostratum* Schrad.) closely resembles the above species and is quite frequent, but the leaves are obtuse and mucronate instead of acuminate, and the operculum, if present, clearly marks the species by its long beak. Often growing with these species, but larger, without stolons and with two or three capsules in a cluster, is "Drummond's Mnium" (*M. Drummondii* Br. & Sch.). Another species sure to be met with in wet and swampy places is *Mnium punctatum*. Its leaves are so large that it could be easily mistaken for a flowering plant. It matures its capsules sparingly and earliest of all our species, in early or late April according to the locality and season. The operculum is long-beaked, the leaves are obovate, bordered and entire, and very broad and obtuse at the apex, slightly emarginate, with usually a slight apiculus and the costa nearly or quite reaching the apex. A form in which the costa ceases some distance below the apex is variety *elatum*. The cells of the leaves are so large as to be readily seen with a hand lens. Species of Byrum are likely to be mistaken for Mnium, but in Mnium the cells are little, if any, longer than broad, while in Bryum they are usually much longer than broad. In our next issue we hope to give a key to all our eastern species with their distribution.—*A. J. G.*

NOTEWORTHY AMERICAN MOSSES.

IN THE number of the *Minnesota Botanical Studies*, published in May, 1897, Mr. J. M. Holzinger has some very valuable notes on "The Genus Coscinodon." He gives the following distinctions for separating the troublesome species *C. Wrightii* and *C. Raui.*

C. Wrightii is silvery-green from the presence of the much lengthened hair-points on the upper leaves, which stand erect. It grows in small, dense cushions of a lighter color than *C. Raui.* The hair points while diminishing in length toward the base of the stem, are still distinctly present and in the middle of young